

[54] **FIRE-RATED COMMON AREA  
SEPARATION WALL STRUCTURE HAVING  
BREAK-AWAY CLIPS**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A common area separation wall structure for separating adjacent occupancy areas is provided having a centrally located vertical fire barrier member comprised of a plurality of steel studs supporting a plurality of gypsum drywall panels, and wood-framed wall structures on each side of the vertical fire barrier having outer wall panels affixed thereto. The fire barrier member is supported by the wall structures on each side and affixed thereto by means of aluminum break-away clips. In the event of a fire in one occupancy area, the heat of the flames melts the break-away clips on that side, permitting the burning wall to separate from the vertical fire barrier member and collapse, while the vertical fire barrier member remains supported by the opposite non-burning wall, thereby preventing the fire from igniting the wall structure of the occupancy area on the other side.

**7 Claims, 5 Drawing Figures**

